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3/3/2004

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

1
Claim ~~9~~ (Currently Amended): A monoclonal antibody which:

(1) reacts specifically with a human apolipoprotein A-I occurring in HDL which contains no human apolipoprotein A-II and has a molecular weight of 150,000 Da or less; and

(2) which reacts specifically with a human apolipoprotein A-I not ~~binding~~ ^{bound} to a lipid, but which does not react with (a) HDL containing apoA-II, (b) ~~VLDL~~ VLDL, (c) LDL, or (d) HDL2,

(3) wherein the reactivity of said monoclonal antibody to blood plasma incubated at 37°C for two hours is lower compared to its reactivity to unheated blood plasma.

2
Claim ~~10~~ (Previously Presented): The monoclonal antibody of Claim 9 which is produced by hybridoma cell line 55201 deposited as FERM BP-6938.

3
Claim ~~11~~ (Previously Presented): The antibody of Claim 9 which has been labeled.

4
Claim ~~12~~ (Currently Amended): The antibody of Claim 9 which has been labeled with biotin, peroxidase, ~~alkaline peroxidase~~ alkaline phosphatase, glucoamylase or β -galactosidase.

5
Claim ~~13~~ (Previously Presented): The antibody of Claim 9 which has been labeled with ^{125}I , ^{131}I or tritium.

~~6~~
Claim ~~14~~ (Previously Presented): A solid support to which the antibody of Claim 9 has been attached.

~~7~~
Claim ~~15~~ (Previously Presented): A composition comprising the monoclonal antibody of Claim 9 and a buffer or diluent.

~~8~~
Claim ~~16~~ (Previously Presented): A hybridoma cell line which produces the monoclonal antibody of Claim 9.

~~9~~
Claim ~~17~~ (Previously Presented): Hybridoma cell line 55201 deposited as FERM BP-6938.

~~10~~
Claim ~~18~~ (Currently Amended): An immunoassay for apoA-I comprising:
contacting the monoclonal antibody of Claim 9 with a sample suspected of containing apoA-I for a time and under conditions suitable for binding of said antibody to apoA-I,
determining binding between said antibody and apoA-I, and
relating the binding to the presence or amount of said apoA-I in said sample.

~~11~~
Claim ~~19~~ (Previously Presented): The immunoassay of Claim 18 which is a RIA.

~~12~~
Claim ~~20~~ (Previously Presented): The immunoassay of Claim 18 which is an EIA.

Claim ¹³~~21~~ (Currently Amended): The immunoassay of Claim ~~17~~ 18, wherein binding of said antibody to apoA-I is determined before and after heating the sample and the amount of reduction or percentage reduction in binding between the sample before heating and the sample after heating is determined.